

[Translation]

Development of Handloom Industry

468. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are sufficient opportunities for the development of textile handloom industry in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to find out the possibilities for development of handloom industry in Uttar Pradesh and the details of the assistance likely to be provided to it?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The assessment of technical and financial requirements for development of handloom sector is a continuous process, which is done by the Government in consultation with the concerned State Government, its participating handloom agencies and the Weavers' Service Centres. On the basis of viable project proposals received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, a total sum of Rs. 115.55 Crores was sanctioned during VIIIth Plan period under various Schemes for development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers. The State Governments, including Uttar Pradesh have been advised to send adequate number of proposals for central assistance under various schemes during the current financial year.

Oil from Coal

469. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to make oil from coal; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

[English]

Khadi and Village Industries Commission

470. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Khadi and Village Industries exist in the country;

(b) whether the Government have any monitoring system for these industries; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) At present 30 State KVI Boards, 4500 registered institutions, 30,080 cooperatives, 7,20,000 Indi-

vidual units, 170 Departmental units and 15,180 sales outlets are engaged in the production and sale of Khadi and village industries in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The performance of the Khadi and Village Industries are monitored by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during the annual budget discussions held with the representatives of the implementing agencies and State Khadi and Village Industry Boards. Government also reviews the performance of these industries periodically by arranging conferences/meetings with the participation of State Industry Ministers and Secretaries, representatives from the State KVI Boards and Bankers.

Strike in SBI Mumbai

471. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers of the State Bank of India Mumbai went on strike from 12th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made by the Government and other authorities to end the strike and the result thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to avoid such type of strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Strike was called following suspension of three officers of the State Bank of India (SBI) in the context of certain alleged irregularities committed by them relating to the accounts of M/s CRB Capital Markets Ltd., which were brought out by a preliminary Inquiry conducted by a senior officer of the bank. The irregularities in the account of M/s CRB Capital Markets Ltd., inter alia, included fraudulent overdrawal from its accounts with the SBI, Mumbai Main Branch for payment of interest warrants, deposit refunds and brokerage warrants, by an amount of over Rs. 58 crores.

(c) and (d) SBI has reported that strike was called off on the basis of an understanding reached on 18th June, 1997 between the management and the All India State Bank Officers Federation. Government view has been that while there should not be any harassment of innocent persons at the same time, officers involved in serious wrong doings should be severely dealt with in an expeditious manner.

Writing off Bad-debt

472. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of bad-debt declared and written off by the RBI during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 upto 31.3.97;

(b) the details of the persons/parties/companies etc.

whose borrowing have been declared as bad-debt;

- (c) the reasons in regard to part (a) & (b); and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to end the declaration of the system of bad-debt by RBI and other banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not declared or written off any bad debt during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 upto 31.3.97. However, the bad debts written off by public sector banks during the last two years, i.e. 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the attached statement.

(b) As per the practices and usages customary amongst banks, the details of persons/parties/companies etc. whose borrowings had been declared as bad debts cannot be disclosed.

(c) Reasons for write off of bad debts by banks are generally as under:

(i) The loans are outstanding for a considerably long period

(ii) The prospect for recovery are remote

(iii) No tangible/realisable securities available to recover the debt

(iv) Legal action takes unduly long period

(d) RBI grants loans and advances to banks, financial institutions, Central and State Governments in its capacity as banker to these bodies. The bank has not declared or written off as bad any loans to these bodies.

In so far as banks are concerned, RBI have advised them to have documents of loan policy and loan recovery policy prepared and duly vetted by their Boards of Directors. This loan recovery policy prescribes the manner of recovery of dues, targetted level of reduction, norms for permitted waiver/sacrifice, factors to be taken into account before considering waivers, and monitoring of write-off/waiver cases, etc. All these measures have shown positive results for reduction of bad debts.

Statement

Bad debts written off by the Public Sector Banks during the last two years

Sr.	Name of the Bank	(Amount in crores)	
		1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
A. State Bank Group			
1.	State Bank of India	363.72	398.69
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	39.25	24.98
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	27.89	15.85
4.	State Bank of Indore	32.93	6.04
5.	State Bank of Mysore	50.61	5.72
6.	State Bank of Patiala	19.74	4.93
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	18.95	4.02
8.	State Bank of Travancore	4.17	28.96
B. Nationalised Banks			
9.	Allahabad Bank	55.73	6.71
10.	Andhra Bank	38.78	1.95
11.	Bank of Baroda	270.27	46.42
12.	Bank of India	260.38	307.08
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	81.12	56.52
14.	Canara Bank	200.00	169.49

1	2	3	4
15.	Central Bank of India	144.12	138.44
16.	Corporation Bank	18.64	19.13
17.	Dena Bank	27.34	51.92
18.	Indian Bank	42.51	115.94
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	5.94	75.01
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2.13	0.82
21.	Punjab National Bank	220.77	53.14
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	1.70	2.86
23.	Syndicate Bank	24.84	8.03
24.	Union Bank of India	27.86	38.81
25.	UCO Bank	165.07	110.98
26.	United Bank of India	119.00	36.51
27.	Vijaya Bank	4.19	13.26
		2267.65	1742.21

Freight Subsidy on Fruit Exports

473. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to approve the proposal of Andhra Pradesh to introduce freight subsidy throughout the year on fruit export from the State:

(b) if so, whether the help from the export promoting agencies such as APEDA would be sought in improving fruit export from the State;

(c) if so, to whether State delegation visited Malaysia and Thailand to explore the potential of fruit and export from the State;

(d) if so, what extent the delegation achieved success in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which the fruit export is likely to be increased during 1997-98 from the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Government have already announced an Air Freight Subsidy scheme effective from 1/1/96 to 30/8/97 on exports of selected floricultural and horticultural products and vegetables. The subsidy is available for exports from all states including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Agricultural & Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) has identified Banganpalli and Totapuri mangoes to have good export potential from Andhra Pradesh. A small quantity of Banganpalli mangoes has also been exported on an experimental basis.

(c) and (d) A delegation from Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of Minister of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh participated in the mango promotion programme organised by the APEDA in Malaysia from 14-18 May '97. Some of the exporters who participated in the programme have got direct orders for supply of Banganpalli mangoes. Exports are expected to pick up further in future on account of such promotional effort.

(e) State-wise data is not maintained. However, APEDA has estimated that there would be 12% growth in quantity terms of export of mangoes from country as a whole in 1997-98.

Subsequent Foreign Investment

474. SHRI PRATAP SINGH SAINI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government require the foreign investor to seek fresh approval for subsequent increase in the amount of foreign equity for investment in the activity already approved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely effect by adopting the above procedure in achieving the objective of attracting 10 billion foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No Government approval is required by the foreign Investors for subsequent increase in foreign equity percentage upto 50%, 51% and 74% for the activities (whether existing or fresh) covered under high priority sectors listed in Annexure III, Part 'A', 'B' and 'C'